

that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

### **Drawings**

The Examiner required a corrected drawing corresponding to the proposed drawing correction filed on February 14, 2003. A corrected drawing of Figure 4A is filed herewith.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,501,910 ("the Kindaichi patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

Since the applicants have perfected their claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, the effective filing date of this application (January 24, 2001) predates the 102(e) date of the Kindaichi publication (April 19, 2001). More specifically, the applicants perfected their claim to priority by filing herewith a translation of the certified priority document JP 2001-015968, accompanied by a statement that the translation is true and accurate. (See, MPEP 201.15.) Priority to JP 2001-015968 was claimed on the first page of the application and in the executed

declaration and a certified copy of the priority document was filed. The foreign priority application provides sufficient disclosure under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as a basis for the pending claims.


Since the Kindaichi publication is no longer valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), this rejection should be withdrawn.

### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and the translation and formal drawing filed herewith, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

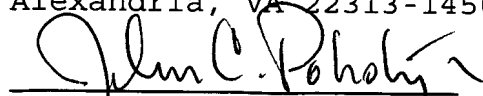
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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **June 19, 2003** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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